

Message Text

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SUBJ: UPDATE ON ELECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LIMA A-13, DATED FEB 13, 1978

SUMMARY: OF THE 1200 CANDIDATES SUBMITTED BY THE TWELVE PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN THE JUNE 4 ELECTION, AS OF APRIL 3 NONE HAVE BEEN RULED INELIGIBLE BY THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION. THERE WERE FEW SURPRISES AMONG THE CANDIDATES, THOUGH TWO LEFTIST PARTIES ARE HEADED BY FORMER POLITICAL EXILES. THE GOP CONTINUES TO SET UP THE ELECTION MACHINERY FOR THE JUNE 4 BALLOTING. HAYA DE LA TORRE ACCUSES THE GOP OF "INTENTION OF FRAUD" FOLLOWING REJECTION BY PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE OF PROPOSED CHANGE TO ELECTION REGULATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING THE APRIL 1 DEADLINE FOR CHALLENGING CANDIDATES OF THE 12 PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN THE JUNE 4 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTION, ONLY THREE CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED AND NONE OF THESE CHALLENGES HAVE BEEN SUSTAINED AS OF APR 3 BY THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (JNE). HOWEVER, THE JNE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT
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AT LEAST 21 CANDIDATES (OUT OF 1200) HAVE ASKED THAT THEIR NAMES BE DELETED FROM THE LISTS.

2. THERE WERE FEW SURPRISES AMONG THE CANDIDATES ON THE SUBMITTED LISTS. (SEE REF AIRGRAM FOR DESCRIPTIONS OF PARTIES AND LEADERS. COMPLETE CANDIDATE LISTS ARE BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT UNDER SEPARATE COVER.) THE TWO PARTIES EXPECTED TO

RECEIVE THE MOST VOTES IN THE ELECTION, APRA AND PPC, ARE LED BY VICTOR RAUL HAYA DE LA TORRE AND LUIS BEDOYA REYES, RESPECTIVELY. BOTH HAYA AND BEDOYA CONTINUE TO CAMPAIGN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, ATTACKING THE POLICIES AND THE FAILURES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT IN POWER SINCE 1968. AMONG PARTIES ON THE RIGHT, THE MDP IS HEADED BY JAVIER ORTIZ DE ZEVALLOS, A FORMER MINISTER IN THE PRADO PRESIDENCY (1956-62); THE UN(O) BY VICTOR FREUNDT ROSELL, A SUPPORTER OF EX-PRESIDENT ODRIA (1948-56); AND THE PDRP BY CARMEN LEGUIA LARRIVIERE, DAUGHTER OF EX-PRESIDENT LEGUIA (1920-30). THE PUNO BASED POPULIST PARTY FNTC IS HEADED BY ROGER CACERES VELASQUEZ. ON THE LEFT, THE PCP IS HEADED BY LONG-TIME COMMUNIST LEADER JORGE DEL PRADO CHAVEZ; THE PDC BY HECTOR CORNEJO CHAVEZ; FOCEP BY GENARO LEDESMA IZQUIETA; THE PSR BY EX-GENERAL LEONIDAS RODRIGUEZ FIGUEROA, WHO IS EXPECTED TO RETURN FROM EXILE IN MEXICO SHORTLY; THE UDP BY VICTOR CUADROS PAREDEZ, THE MINeworkers' UNION LEADER WHO RETURNED FROM EXILE MARCH 22; AND ARS (FORMERLY APS) BY MARIO VILLARAN RIVERA. OTHER CANDIDATES WORTH NOTING ARE CARLOS BOBBIO CENTURION (NUMBER 12 ON THE PPC LIST), THE EX-GENERAL WHO PRECIPITATED THE GOVERNMENT SHAKEUP OF JULY 1976 AND THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ AND EX-PRIME MINISTER FERNANDEZ MALDONADO; AVELINO MAR ARIAS (NUMBER 3 ON THE PSR LIST), THE LEADER OF THE CNA, THE BROAD-BASED AGRARIAN CONFEDERATION; HUGO BLANCO GALDOS (NUMBER 3 ON THE FOCEP LIST), LONG-TIME EXILE AND LEFTIST RADICAL AND TERRORIST; AND LAURA CALLER IBERICO (NUMBER 7 ON THE FOCEP LIST), FORMERLY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S LIMA REPRESENTATIVE.

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NOTED BY THEIR ABSENCE WERE ARMANDO VILLANUEVA CAMPO OF APRA, ONCE CONSIDERED HAYA'S MOST LIKELY SUCCESSOR (VILLANUEVA WILL MIND THE APRA STORE DURING THE ASSEMBLY); AND, EXCEPT FOR THE PSR'S RODRIGUEZ AND EX-NAVY MINISTER LUIS ARCE LARRO, ANY PROMINENT RETIRED MILITARY FIGURES FROM THE VELASCO REGIME (1968-75).

3. THE JNE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT 30,000 SEALED BALLOT BOXES WILL BE SENT TO LOCAL ELECTION OFFICIALS IN APRIL IN PREPARATION FOR THE JUNE ELECTION. ADDITIONALLY, ONE MILLION HANDOUTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED, EXPLAINING THE MECHANICS OF THE ELECTION TO VOTERS, AS WELL AS ONE MILLION COPIES OF THE ENTIRE CANDIDATE LISTS. THE JNE ALSO NOTED THAT LATEST COUNTS INDICATE THAT SLIGHTLY UNDER 5 MILLION PERUVIANS ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE, 40 PERCENT OF WHOM LIVE IN LIMA.

4. IN A COMMUNIQUE DATED MARCH 31, THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, WHICH CONSIDERS RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE JNE TO CHANGE THE ELECTION RULES, ANNOUNCED THAT THE APRA-SUPPORTED PETITION FOR A "DOUBLE" PREFERENTIAL VOTE HAS BEEN REJECTED. THIS "DOUBLE" PREFERENTIAL VOTE WOULD HAVE ALLOWED ELECTORS TO VOTE FOR THE LEADER OF A PARTY, AS WELL AS THE CANDIDATE OF THEIR CHOICE.

APRA HAS CONTENDED THAT THE PREFERENTIAL VOTE, WHERE ELECTORS MAY VOTE FOR ONLY ONE CANDIDATE ON A PARTY'S LIST (AS OPPOSED TO "DOUBLE" PREFERENTIAL VOTE WHERE THEY VOTE FOR TWO), WILL LEAD TO CHAOTIC AND EVEN "FRAUDULENT" RESULTS. CERTAINLY, THIS RULE WILL HURT APRA, WHICH MAY WIN A THIRD OF THE SEATS IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, BUT BECAUSE OF THE PREFERENTIAL VOTE WILL HAVE LITTLE CONTROL OVER WHICH OF ITS 100 CANDIDATES WIN A SEAT; THE MAJORITY OF APRISTA VOTES WILL GO TO HAYA AND ONLY A FEW, IN PROBABLY HAPHAZARD FASHION, TO THE OTHER CANDIDATES. HAYA HAS USED THIS ISSUE IN HIS CAMPAIGN AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE GOP'S "INTENTION OF FRAUD."

5. COMMENT: THE HANDLING OF THE CANDIDATE LISTS AND THE PROGRESS TOWARD SETTING UP THE ELECTION MACHINERY ADD TO ALL PREVIOUS INDIVIDUAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CATIONS (SUCH AS THE RECENT POLITICAL AMNESTY) THAT THE GOP INTENDS TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE JUNE 4 SCHEDULE AND THAT THE ELECTIONS WILL BE GENERALLY HONEST AND FREELY CONTESTED.

DECON 12/31/78. SHLAUDEMAN

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